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November 22, 1962 - Thursday - Thanksgiving Da

Went shopping this morning. Also visited the Royal Academy, to see the Retrospective Exhibition of Sir Russell Flint. I thought some of his watercolors and drawings excellent. Had some people in for cocktails this afternoon.

E and I went tonight to the American Society dinner at the Dorchester. There were 650 guests. I sat between Mrs. Dickson Wright and Mr. Wright, who was our guest speaker. I read the Thanksgiving Proclamation, made a speech, then enjoyed Dickson Wright's witty remarks. We were lucky to get him, for since Lord Birkett's death, he is said to be more in demand for occasions such as this than any one in England. This was a white tie, decorations affair, followed by a dance.

November 23, 1962 - Friday

I went to Cardiff by train this morning. It is a trip of about three hours. There I was met by our Consul, Mrs. Magdalen Flexner. She had been stationed in Bordeaux some years ago, then moved to Paris, where eventually she replaced Marcelle Lecomte as receptionist for VIP's. I don't think she much relished that duty, one of the most unpleasant ~~these~~ I know, although admirably managed for years by Marcelle, who is now married and living in America. Mrs. Flexner is attractive. She thinks, as I do, that the closing of half our Consulates in the United Kingdom is a grave mistake. I went to see her house, owned by the Government. It is entirely unsuitable for its purpose. The office, in a new

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The Prime Minister, of course, dominates his delegation. His style is different from the President's, not at all staccato. He is almost hesitant at times in speech, at others eloquent, sentimental, and, when he wishes, steely. He has charm, and excellent manners. I should judge him to be resourceful, resilient, and proud.

NSC/MR 6-17-81

The conversations covered the globe.

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The Congo situation is of great concern to our delegation. Things there appear to be even more messy and chaotic than usual. I so disapprove of many of our past activities and present policies in this area that I remain silent on the subject, except in private and facetious talk with members of our delegation, who tease me for my "colonial" views.

I wish the President would rid himself of most of his present advisers on the Congo, and have the question reexamined by people with more imagination and judgment than those who cry for foolish actions, lest the Soviets take over. Meanwhile, he might be wise to send a cargo plane loaded with tranquillizer pills to our representatives in Leopoldville.

Dined tonight at the Prime Minister's where I delivered an unpremeditated dissertation on Germany, past, present, and future.